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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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May 30, 2007

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *for*  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PARKS AND  
RECREATION COMMISSION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Commission's sunset review date be extended to July 1, 2008. The Audit Committee also recommend to the Board of Supervisors to instruct the Department of Parks and Recreation to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission to improve the Commission's attendance, as well as re-focus on goals and activities, to justify extending the Commission's sunset review date beyond July 1, 2008.

**BACKGROUND**

The Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC or Commission) was established by the Board of Supervisors (Board) pursuant to Chapter 3.46 of the Los Angeles County Code.

The Commission's mission is to advise and support the Board and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in the acquisition, improvement, and governance of County parks, recreational areas/facilities, recreation programs, and other recreation matters.

The PRC consists of five members, one nominated by each Supervisor. The PRC is required to meet monthly. From October 1, 2001 through March 31, 2006, the PRC met 34 times, with an average attendance of 3.4 (68%) members. Commission members do not receive compensation. The PRC receives support from one DPR staff member and does not have a separate budget.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

The PRC assists in ensuring that there are quality public parks and recreational services. The Commission obtains input from groups, agencies, DPR management and the public. The PRC acts as a conduit for community opinion regarding DPR policies. In turn, the PRC advises the Board and DPR on recreational areas, facilities and programs.

We reviewed the meeting minutes from 2001 through 2006, and noted that the Commission provided relatively few effective recommendations to the Board and DPR. We also noted that 37% of the required meetings were cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. Despite these issues, DPR management believes the PRC and its mission are needed. Therefore, DPR management and Commission members are actively working to improve the Commission's attendance and effectiveness. DPR and the PRC are considering nominating alternates who will be approved by the Board, and who can attend meetings to ensure a quorum. The PRC is also expanding the roles of individual Commission members, as well as the PRC's role in the community and with DPR. For example, the PRC was instrumental in discussions regarding public concern over the proposed South Coast Golf Course in Palos Verdes. In addition, the PRC will meet with the Board to apprise them of all the programs and events provided by DPR for the community and PRC's role in those activities.

As a result of these recent actions by both the PRC and DPR, and the renewed focus on goals and objectives, we recommend that the PRC's sunset review date be extended one year, to July 1, 2008. At that time, the Commission's role and accomplishments can be reassessed, and a decision made on whether the Commission should be granted a new sunset date.

Please call if you have any questions.

JTM:MMO:JLS:MR

### **Attachments**

- c: Russ Guiney, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Sal B. Castro, Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission
- Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer
- Robin A. Guerrero, Chief, Board Operations
- Jim Corbett, Manager, Commission Services

**COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW**  
**LOS ANGELES COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**REVIEW COMMENTS**

**Mission.** (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

Stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance creating the Commission.

The Commission's mission appears to **CONCUR.**

**Section 1. Relevance.** (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Commission's mission is to advise and support the Board and DPR in the acquisition, improvement, and governance of County parks, recreational areas/facilities, recreation programs, and other recreation matters.

The Commission's mission appears to be **RELEVANT.**

**Section 2. Meetings and Attendance.** (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The PRC consists of five members, one nominated by each Supervisor. The PRC is required to meet monthly. From October 1, 2001 through March 31, 2006, the PRC met 34 times, with an average attendance of 3.4 (68%) members. Thirty-seven percent of the required meetings were cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

The Commission's meeting frequency and attendance are **UNSATISFACTORY.**

However, DPR management and Commission members are actively working to improve the Commission's attendance and effectiveness. DPR and the PRC are considering nominating alternates who will be approved by the Board, and who can attend meetings to ensure a quorum.

**Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results.** (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

Meetings consist primarily of DPR staff updating the Commission members on budgets, plans, programs, events, and changes. However, the PRC's advice on these issues was limited. In addition, some of the recommendations presented by the PRC to the DPR or Board on County parks, recreational areas and programs were not implemented. As a result, the Commission provided relatively few effective recommendations to the Board and DPR.

However, DPR management believes the PRC and its mission are needed. Therefore, DPR management and Commission members are working to improve the Commission's effectiveness. The PRC is expanding the roles of individual Commission members, as well as the PRC's role in the community and with DPR. For example, the PRC was instrumental in discussions regarding public concern over the proposed South Coast Golf Course in Palos Verdes. In addition, the PRC will meet with the Board to apprise them of all the programs and events provided by DPR and PRC's role in those activities.

The Commission's accomplishments and results are **SATISFACTORY.**

**Section 5. Objectives.** (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The PRC's objectives are to assist in ensuring that there are quality public parks and recreational services. The Commission obtains input from groups, agencies, DPR management and the public. The PRC acts as a conduit for community opinion regarding DPR policies. In turn, the PRC advises the Board and DPR on recreational areas, facilities and programs.

The Commission's future objectives appear **RELEVANT.**

**Section 6. Resources.** (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Commission members do not receive compensation. The PRC receives support from one DPR staff member and does not have a separate budget.

The Commission's expenses appear to be **WARRANTED.**

**Section 7. Recommendation.**

**EXTEND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION'S SUNSET REVIEW DATE TO JULY 1, 2008.**

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**ATTENDANCE RECORD**

Average Attendance per Meeting